

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A tablet feeder comprising:

a tablet accommodating section capable of accommodating a multiplicity of tablets;

a tablet array member which is disposed in the tablet accommodating section and which,

while being driven and rotated, retains the tablets one after another in pockets defined in an
~~outer~~~~an outer~~ periphery thereof and discharges them at a discharge position; and

a partitioning member for partitioning tablets contained in the pockets of the tablet array
member, the partitioning member including a partitioning portion having a~~whose~~ brush-like
shape and including a partitioning portion plurality of brush elements that extend into the pockets
as they rotate through the discharge position such that~~having a shape of brush partitions the~~
~~pocket so that the upper tablets do not fall into the lower pocket, thereby the tablets retained in~~
~~the pockets~~ pocket of the tablet array member are discharged by a predetermined number, wherein
a first portion of the brush elements located at an end of the partitioning portion are linear
members and a second plurality of the brush elements have a U-shape so as to provide a rounded
tip portion.

~~the tablet feeder being characterized in that;~~

~~at least part of brush element among the brush elements constituting the partitioning~~
~~portion of the partitioning member has a tip bent in a U-shape.~~

2.(Currently Amended) The tablet feeder according to claim 1, wherein the brush elements

constituting the partitioning portion are tilted toward a downstream side relative to a rotational of rotational direction of the tablet array member.

3. (Currently Amended) The tablet feeder according to claim 1, wherein each of the brush elements constituting the partitioning portion ~~have their~~ has a cross section that is formed into a generally oval shape, and a minor ~~its minor~~ axis of the oval shape is directed along the rotational direction of the tablet array member.

4. (Currently Amended) The tablet feeder according to claim 1, wherein each of the brush elements constituting the partitioning portion ~~comprises a plurality of filaments that are held~~ which is got together so as to form the U-shape and the rounded tip and has a tip bent in a U-shape.

5. (Currently Amended) The tablet feeder according to claim 2, wherein each of the brush elements constituting the partitioning portion ~~have is oval shaped in their cross section formed into a generally oval shape, and its minor~~ a minor axis of the oval cross section is directed along the rotational direction of the tablet array member.

6. (Currently Amended) The tablet feeder according to claim 2, wherein each of the brush elements constituting the partitioning portion ~~comprises a plurality of filaments that are held together so as to form the U-shape and the rounded tip which is got together and has a tip bent in~~

a U-shape.

7. (Currently Amended) The tablet feeder according to claim 3, wherein each of the brush elements constituting the partitioning portion comprises a plurality of filaments that are held together so as to form the U-shape and the rounded tip which is got together and has a tip bent in a U-shape.

8. (New) A tablet feeder comprising:

a tablet accommodating section capable of accommodating a multiplicity of tablets;

a tablet array member which is rotatably disposed in the tablet accommodating section and which, while being driven and rotated, retains the tablets one after another in pockets defined in an outer periphery thereof such that the tablets can be discharged at a discharge position; and

a partitioning member including a partitioning portion having a brush-shape, the partitioning portion being disposed in the vicinity of the discharge position such that the pockets are partitioned so that upper tablets are prevented from falling into a lower portion of the pocket, and thereby the tablets retained in the pocket of the tablet array member are discharged by a predetermined number,

wherein at least two adjacent brush elements among the brush elements constituting the partitioning portion of the partitioning member are connected so as to form a tip bent in a U-shape.